

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 (ISO) W
----- 031385

P R 131230Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3081

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 5166

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS CG PFOR US

SUBJECT: ABORTIVE COUP

1. KINSHASA JUNE 12 WAS BUZZING WITH RUMORS CONCERNING
COUP OR ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST MOBUTU WHICH
ABORTED, IF INDEED IT WERE EVER TRIED OR EVEN THOUGHT OF AT ALL.
SEVERAL OF MY COLLEAGUES DURING COURSE OF DAY ASKED ME IF IT WERE
TRUE THAT PLOTTERS WERE PREDOMINANTLY AMERICAN-TRAINED
OFFICERS, TO WHICH I COULD ONLY REPLY I HAD HEARD SAME
RUMORS THEY HAD AND DIDN'T KNOW ANTHING FOR CERTAIN.

2. ITALIAN AMBASSADOR TOLD ME THAT AMONG ARRESTED IS
COL. UMBA, MOBUTU'S PERSONAL SECRETARY AND HEAD OF
PRESIDENTIAL SECURITY, NOT, ACCORDING TO SIMONETTI,
FOR PARTICIPATION IN PLOT BUT FOR FAILURE TO DISCOVER
IT SOON ENOUGH. WE ALSO HAVE REPORTS THAT GENERAL
FALLU, RECENTLY RETURNED ZAIRIAN MILITARY ATTACHE
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IN WASHINGTON, IS UNDER ARREST. BELGIAN CHARGE

SAYS HE KNOWS THAT FAIRLY SENIOR GENDARME OFFICER
"TRAINED IN BELGIUM" IS AMONG ARRESTED. OUR UNDERSTANDING
IS THAT CAPTAIN GENERAL BUMBA IS NOT AMONGST THOSE
SUSPECTED, ALTHOUGH REPORTEDLY SEVERAL OF ARRESTED
OFFICERS COME FROM HIS PERSONAL STAFF. ANOTHER PECULIAR
ASPECT IS THAT, ACCORDING TO SOME RUMORS, OFFICERS
INVOLVED ARE PREDOMINANTLY FROM TRIBES FROM EQUATEUR,
THE PRESIDENT'S OWN REGION.

2. WHETHER THERE WAS OR WAS NOT A PLOT, IT IS CERTAIN
THAT NUMEROUS ARRESTS HAVE BEEN MADE, SOME SOURCES
SPEAK OF TEN TO TWENTY OFFICERS. THE SUPERFICIAL
APPEARANCE OF CONNECTIONS WITH THE US IS DISTURBING,
TO SAY THE LEAST, AND COULD BE SUBJECT TO RATHER NASTY
EXPLOITATION. ON OTHER HAND, IF INDIVIDUALS UNDER
INTERROGATION TELL TRUTH, IT SHOULD BECOME READILY APPARENT
THAT US WAS NOT PARTY TO ANY PLOT.
HINTON

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